

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Vegetation Map Class for Mountain Willow Shrubland

The map class "[Mountain Willow Shrubland](#)" is composed of the following vegetation associations, each described separately:

- [Mountain Willow / Beaked Sedge Shrubland](#)
- [Mountain Willow / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland](#)

This map unit is the most common willow type within the monument. It is present at scattered localities along Grape Creek and its tributary drainages occupying narrow, low-gradient streams. The elevations are relatively low, from approximately 8250-8450 feet within the monument. The stands are linear, growing in saturated gravel and peat substrates immediately adjacent to the flowing water. Along the middle reach of Grape Creek there are many beaver dams and ponds within this vegetation type. Mountain willow shrubs grow along the edge of the floodplain, on the margins of the beaver ponds, and persist as shorter and younger shrubs than in other areas.